



A person walks with an umbrella in light rain in the City of London financial district in London, Jan. 5, 2021, on the first morning of England entering a third national lockdown since the coronavirus outbreak began.

Associated Press

Pandemic haunts new year as virus growth outpaces vaccines

By **DANICA KIRKA and ANGELA CHARLTON**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Despite growing vaccine access, January is looking grim around the globe as the coronavirus resurges and reshapes itself from Britain

to Japan to California, filling hospitals and threatening livelihoods anew as governments lock down businesses and race to find solutions.

England headed back into lockdown. Mexico City's hospitals hold more virus

patients than ever. Germany reported one of its highest daily death tolls to date Tuesday. South Africa and Brazil are struggling to find space for the dead. Even pandemic success story Thailand is fighting an unexpected wave of infections.

And as doctors face or brace for rising numbers of COVID-19 patients after end-of-year holiday gatherings, more and more countries are reporting cases of a new, more contagious variant that has already swept across Britain.

January is going to be "a tough one," said Dr. Margaret Harris, a spokeswoman for the World Health Organization. "This idea that seems to be 'Ah, we're all sick of it."

Continued on next page



SETAR Complete 60+

Internet - Cable TV - Fixed Phone

Start-Up
Afl. 169
p/month

Premium
Afl. 265
p/month

Call us at 525-1702





A man wearing a British union flag face mask walks past a coronavirus advice sign outside a bank in Glasgow the morning after stricter lockdown measures came into force for Scotland, Tuesday Jan. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

We want to look at something else. Oh, this doesn't apply to me' ... that's got to go away. It really is all hands on deck."

While Britain rolled out a second vaccine this week and some U.S. states are starting to give the second round of shots, access to inoculations globally is sharply unequal. The supply isn't remotely close to meeting the epic demand needed to vanquish a foe that has already killed over 1.85 million people.

"We are in a race to prevent infections, bring cases down, protect health systems and save lives while rolling out two highly effective and safe vaccines to high-risk populations," said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "This is not easy. These are the hard miles." England is facing a third national lockdown that will last at least six weeks, as authorities struggle to stem a surge in COVID-19 infections and relieve hospitals, where some patients are left waiting in ambulances in a parking lot for access to overcrowded wards. Prime Minister Boris Johnson

announced the tough new stay-at-home order for England, effective at midnight Tuesday. It will shut schools, restaurants and all nonessential stores and won't be reviewed until at least mid-February. Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon imposed a lockdown that began Tuesday.

The two leaders said the restrictions are needed to protect the National Health Service amid the emergence of the new variant that has sent daily infections, hospitalizations and deaths soaring.

The NHS "is going through probably the toughest time in living memory," said Siva Anandaciva, chief analyst of the King's Fund think tank.

Elsewhere in Europe, Italy and Germany extended their Christmastime lockdowns, Spain is restricting travel, and Denmark lowered the number of people who can gather in public from 10 to five. France is likely to announce tougher measures Thursday, and Ukraine is closing schools and restaurants starting Friday.

In Latin America, some warn the worst is yet to

come.

"The boost we are experiencing here in Brazil is much more serious than what was happening months ago," said Domingos Alves, an adjunct professor at the University of Sao Paulo.

Brazil's number of patients in intensive care reached its highest level since August, just as the nation reopened shops and offices after the end-of-year holidays — and the vast country still hasn't approved or received any vaccines. Some Brazilian hospitals reinstalled refrigerated containers outside to hold the corpses of COVID-19 victims.

Mexico's capital has more virus patients than at any point in the pandemic and is flying in doctors from less hard-hit states. Its beach resorts are readying for more cases after thousands of U.S. and European tourists visited over the holidays.

"Probably in the third week of January, we are going to see the system stressed more, that there will be more ambulatory cases and cases requiring hospitalization," said Dr. Mauricio Rodriguez of Mexico's National Autonomous Univer-

sity. He blamed the rise on fatigue with social distancing, mixed messages from public figures and Mexicans lowering their guard during the holidays.

Zimbabwe reintroduced a curfew, banned public gatherings and indefinitely suspended the opening of schools. In South Africa, which is seeing yet another fast-spreading variant of the virus and is the continent's hardest-hit nation, authorities re-imposed a curfew, banned liquor sales and closed most beaches. South Africa's undertakers are struggling to cope with the rise in deaths, National Funeral Practitioners Association of SA President Muzi Hlengwa told state broadcaster SABC.

"It is something that you have never seen before. ... We have run out of coffins, we have run out of space at the mortuary," he said. "We normally have cremations during the day, but now we have cremations even at night."

The pandemic is even reaching countries that seemed to have the virus under control.

Thailand is facing a surge that has infected thou-

sands in the past few weeks, blamed on complacency and poor planning. The government is locking down large parts of the country, including the capital, Bangkok, and considering tougher measures. Japan is getting ready to declare a state of emergency this week, beefing up border controls and speeding up vaccine approval after a surge of cases around New Year's Eve. And holiday worries aren't over now that 2021 has arrived.

Pope Francis abandoned an annual ritual of baptizing babies in the Sistine Chapel tied to Wednesday's Epiphany holiday. Orthodox Christian countries like Russia and Greece could face more infections after they celebrate Christmas on Thursday. And China is closing schools early ahead of next month's Lunar New Year holiday, telling migrant workers not to go home and tourists to avoid Beijing.

Vaccinations are getting off to a slow start in many places. In the U.S., where over 350,000 people have died, some states are struggling to secure enough shots and organize vaccinations. The Netherlands has come under heavy criticism for being the last European Union nation to start inoculations, which it will do Wednesday. Australia isn't planning to do so until March. And most poorer countries are even further behind.

Opposition politician Geert Wilders called the Dutch government "the village idiot of Europe."

Yet India offers a glimmer of hope. Its infection rate is down significantly from a September peak, and the country is kicking off one of the largest inoculation programs in the world, aiming at vaccinating 300 million people by August. □

Like us on  Facebook
facebook.com/arubatoday/

D.C. mayor calls in National Guard ahead of pro-Trump protests

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bracing for possible violence, the nation's capital has mobilized the National Guard ahead of planned protests by President Donald Trump's supporters in connection with the congressional vote expected Wednesday to affirm Joe Biden's election victory.

Trump's supporters are planning to rally Tuesday and Wednesday, seeking to bolster the president's unproven claims of widespread voter fraud. "There are people intent on coming to our city armed," D.C. Acting Police Chief Robert Contee said Monday.

A pro-Trump rally in December ended in violence as hundreds of Trump supporters, wearing the signature black and yellow of the Proud Boys faction, sought out confrontations with a collective of local activists attempting to bar them from Black Lives Matter Plaza, an area near the White House.

On Monday, Metropolitan Police Department officers arrested the leader of the Proud Boys, Henry "Enrique" Tarrío, 36, after he arrived in Washington ahead of this week's protests. Tarrío was accused of burning a Black Lives Matter banner that was torn down from a historic Black church in downtown Washington during the December protests.



In this Dec. 17, 2020 file photo, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser speaks during a news conference in Washington.

Associated Press

A warrant had been issued for Tarrío's arrest for destruction of property, police said. He was also facing a weapons charges after officers found him with two high-capacity firearm magazines when he was arrested, a police spokesman said.

Trump has repeatedly encouraged this week's protests and hinted that he may get personally involved. Over the weekend, he retweeted a promotion for the rally with the message, "I will be there. Historic Day!"

At a November rally, which

drew about 15,000 people, Trump staged a limousine drive-by past cheering crowds in Freedom Plaza, on the city's iconic Pennsylvania Avenue. And at the December rally, which drew smaller numbers but a larger contingent of Proud Boys, Trump's helicopter flew low over cheering crowds on the National Mall.

The protests coincide with Wednesday's congressional vote expected to certify the Electoral College results, which Trump continues to dispute,

Election officials from both

political parties, governors in key battleground states and Trump's former attorney general, William Barr, have said there was no widespread fraud in the election. Nearly all the legal challenges from Trump and his allies have been dismissed by judges, including two rejected by the Supreme Court.

Now with downtown D.C. businesses boarding up their windows, Mayor Muriel Bowser has requested a limited National Guard deployment to help bolster the Metropolitan Police Department. During a press

conference on Monday, Bowser asked that local area residents stay away from downtown D.C., and avoid confrontations with anyone who is "looking for a fight." But, she warned, "we will not allow people to incite violence, intimidate our residents or cause destruction in our city."

According to a U.S. defense official, Bowser put in a request on New Year's Eve to have Guard members on the streets from Tuesday to Thursday to help with the protests. The official said the additional forces will be used for traffic control and other assistance but they will not be armed or wearing body armor. Congress is meeting this week to certify the Electoral College results, and Trump has refused to concede while whipping up support for protests.

Some 340 D.C. National Guard members will be activated, with about 115 on duty in the streets at any given time, said the defense official, who provided details on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. The official said Guard members will be used to set up traffic control points around the city and to stand with district police officers at all the city's Metro stops. Contee said Guard troops will also be used for some crowd management. □

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter won't attend Biden's inauguration

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Jimmy Carter and former first lady Rosalynn Carter will not attend President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. It marks the first time the couple, 96 and 93, will have missed the ceremonies since Carter was sworn in as the 39th president in 1977.

A spokeswoman at The Carter Center in Atlanta said the Carters have sent Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris their "best wishes" and "look forward to a successful administration."

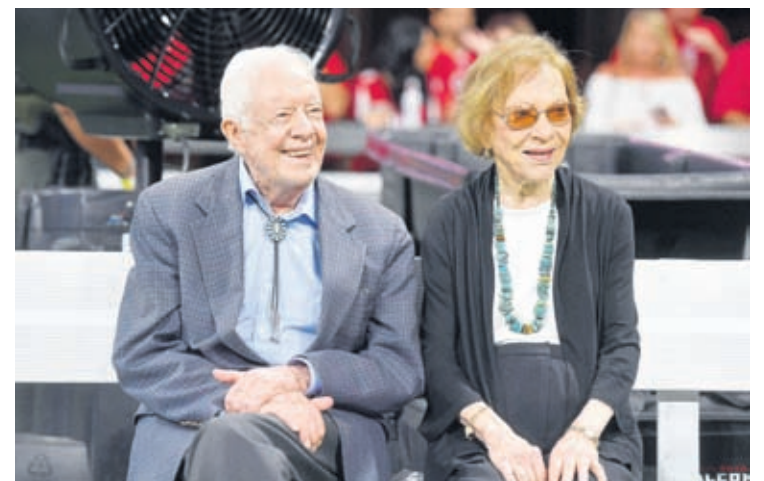
Biden was a young Delaware senator and Carter

ally during the Georgian's term in the White House.

The Carters have spent the coronavirus pandemic mostly at their home in Plains, Georgia, where both were raised and where they returned after leaving the White House in 1981.

Carter, a Democrat, became the longest-lived American president in March 2019, surpassing former President George H.W. Bush, who died the previous November. Carter survived a melanoma diagnosis that spread to his brain in 2015. He has since had several falls and hip replacement surgery. He no longer

teaches Sunday School at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, as he had for decades, but still participates in church activities via video amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Carter was the first former president to confirm his plans to attend President Donald Trump's inauguration in 2017. The Carters were seated on the aisle, next to former President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton, and former President George W. Bush and Laura Bush. The elder Bush was the lone former president at the time who did not attend Trump's inauguration. The Carters did



In this Sept. 30, 2018 file photo, former President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter are seen ahead of an NFL football game between the Atlanta Falcons and the Cincinnati Bengals, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

travel to Washington for the elder Bush's funeral. □

Illinois teen pleads not guilty in Kenosha protest slayings

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — An Illinois teenager who fatally shot two people and wounded a third amidst sometimes violent summer protests on the streets of Kenosha, Wisconsin, pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to charges including intentional homicide.

Kyle Rittenhouse, 18, entered his plea in a brief hearing conducted by teleconference that came just as Kenosha was bracing for a charging decision in the event that brought Rittenhouse to the city in August — the police shooting of Jacob Blake.

Prosecutors say Rittenhouse, who is white, left his home in Antioch, Illinois, and traveled to Kenosha after learning of a call to protect businesses after Blake, a Black man, was shot seven times in the back Aug. 23 and left paralyzed.

Rittenhouse opened fire with an assault-style rifle during protests two nights later, killing Joseph Rosenbaum and Anthony Huber and wounding Gaige Grosskreutz. Rittenhouse has argued he fired in self-defense. Conservatives have rallied around Rittenhouse, describing him as a patriot who took up arms to protect people and prop-



In this screen grab from live stream video, Kyle Rittenhouse, left, appears with his attorney, Mark Richards in Richards office in Racine, Wis., during a hearing at Kenosha County Court in Kenosha, Wis., on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

erty, and raised enough money to make his \$2 million cash bail.

Others see him as a domestic terrorist whose presence with a rifle incited protesters.

The Blake shooting happened three months after George Floyd died while being restrained by police officers in Minneapolis, which also was captured on bystander video and which sparked outrage

and protests that spread across the United States and beyond. The galvanized Black Lives Matter movement put a spotlight on inequitable policing and became a fault line in politics, with President Donald Trump criticizing protesters and aggressively pressing a law-and-order message that he sought to capitalize on in Wisconsin and other swing states.

In Kenosha, as the protests

that followed damaged businesses in the city of 100,000 near the Wisconsin-Illinois border — authorities ultimately estimated some \$50 million in damage — some people answered a call on social media to travel to Kenosha.

Conservatives have rallied to Rittenhouse's legal defense, arguing that he was a patriot who took up arms to protect people and property. Rittenhouse,

who is white, was 17 at the time of the shootings, and charges include illegal possession of a dangerous weapon by someone under age 18.

A pretrial conference for Rittenhouse was set for March 10, with a March 29 trial date, though his attorney Mark Richards indicated he would seek to delay that to allow more time to prepare.

Kenosha County District Attorney Michael Graveley hasn't publicly announced the timing of a decision on whether to charge Kenosha Police Officer Rusten Sheskey. But the city began moving in recent days to prepare for the event, with some businesses boarding their windows and concrete barricades and oversized metal fencing surrounding the Kenosha County Courthouse. Fearing a repeat of the August protests, the Kenosha Common Council on Monday night unanimously approved an emergency resolution that goes into effect with the announcement and allows the mayor to set curfews.

Meanwhile, Gov. Tony Evers activated 500 National Guard troops to help Kenosha authorities when the decision is announced. □

American Airlines is grounding emotional-support animals



In this April 1, 2017, file photo, a service dog named Orlando rests on the foot of its trainer, John Reddan, of Warwick, N.Y., while sitting inside a United Airlines plane at Newark Liberty International Airport during a training exercise in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — American Airlines is banning emotional-support animals in a

move that will force most owners to pay extra if they want their pets to travel with them.

The airline said Tuesday that

it will allow animals in the cabin free of charge only if they are trained service dogs. The change takes effect Monday, although passengers who already bought tickets can fly with a companion animal until Feb. 1.

The move follows a similar decision by Alaska Airlines and is likely to be copied by other carriers. The U.S. Transportation Department cleared the way for the crackdown against companion animals last month. American said passengers with a service dog will need to complete a government form vouching for the dog's health, training and temperament.

Other animals, including dogs not trained as service

dogs, will only be able to fly in the cargo hold or a kennel that fits under a seat in the cabin. Either way, American will collect a pet fee ranging from \$125 to several hundred dollars.

Jessica Tyler, American's president of cargo, said the rules will help passengers with service animals and protect employees on planes and in airports.

The number of passengers flying with companion animals grew rapidly in recent years, with some saying the animals helped them overcome anxiety and other issues. Passengers only needed a note from a health professional, and a cottage industry sprang up to provide those notes along with vests and other

accoutrements for their animals.

Airlines and particularly flight attendants took a more critical view, saying passengers were exploiting a loophole in federal regulations to avoid pet fees. In a few cases, including some involving serious injuries, companion animals bit other passengers.

Last month, the Transportation Department settled the matter, siding mostly with the airlines. It said carriers were free to ban any animal other than dogs formally trained to help people with physical or psychological disabilities.

The department estimated that under the new rules airlines will scoop up \$59.6 million a year in pet fees. □

France launches service to make deadbeat parents pay

By SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France is launching a new government service empowered to take money directly from the bank accounts of parents who fail to pay child support, aiming to help many families — the vast majority of whom are headed by single mothers — emerge from precarious financial situations.

President Emmanuel Macron denounced in a tweet unpaid child support as "an unbearable situation for hundreds of thousands of single parents," before visiting a benefits agency Tuesday in Tours, in central France, which is providing the new service.

"Thank you" for the measure, a single mother of three told Macron, detailing at length her personal situation, involving domestic violence and harassment from her ex-husband and deep financial difficulties. "That's a great relief," she said.

The mothers who spoke with Macron didn't provide their names because of privacy reasons.

French authorities estimate that between 30% and 40%



French President Emmanuel Macron removes a protective face mask to take a drink of water as he attends a meeting during a visit at the headquarters of the local CAF (French family allowance public services) in Tours, central France, Tuesday Jan. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

of child support amounts are either not paid, only partially paid or paid too late — placing at least 300,000 families in financial insecurity.

Single parents represent one out of four families in France, 85% of whom are mothers. A third are living under the poverty rate.

For these families, getting child support — on average 170 euros (\$209) per

month for each child — is key.

The measure also aims at preventing financial pressure and threats sometimes exerted by deadbeat parents.

Under the new system, any mother or father can request the new government service, regardless of whether the other parent disagrees. Once in place, the service handles the

payment of the money until the child is 18.

The issue was raised in 2019 during the "grand debate" launched by Macron to allow the French to express their grievances following weeks of anti-government, yellow vest protests denouncing social injustice.

"I was struck by the number of women who told me they could not live decently because their alimony

wasn't paid," Macron said at the time.

Many countries across Europe are facing similar problems.

In neighboring Belgium, deadbeat parents have been an issue to the point that the government has taken action by creating a special service which helps people in their legal quest to get the money owed and gives out advances if needed.

Last year, the Czech government proposed a program to guarantee payment of child support to single parents, which will become effective on July 1. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs estimated that the state will initially cover child support payments of up to 3,000 Czech koruna (\$140) a month for about 24,000 children. The government will then claim the money from those who have failed to pay.

In Germany, around half of all child support payments by divorced parents are either not or not fully paid, according to estimates. In cases where the parents are too poor, the state pays child support until the children are 18 years old. □

Egypt's leader meets U.S. treasury chief ahead of Sudan visit

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president met Tuesday with U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin in Cairo, ahead of Mnuchin's first visit to Sudan since the end of Khartoum's pariah status. The office of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi said in a statement the president and Mnuchin discussed mutual and regional issues, including the latest developments in talks with Sudan and Ethiopia over a disputed dam that Ethiopia is building over the Blue Nile River.

The statement said el-Sissi appreciated U.S. efforts in the dam talks last year that resulted in a U.S.-crafted draft deal to resolve the yearslong dispute over the massive project.

The three Nile Valley countries met Sunday in the lat-

est push by South Africa, the current chairman of the African Union, which is mediating a deal between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. Experts from the three nations and the AU were to meet Monday, but Sudan boycotted the meeting and insisted on a greater role for AU experts in the negotiations.

Egypt initialed the draft deal, crafted by the United States in February, but Ethiopia did not attend the signing ceremony and accused President Donald Trump's administration of siding with Egypt. Sudan attended the meeting but did not sign.

The U.S. has suspended some aid to Ethiopia over the "lack of progress" in the talks and U.S. "concern about Ethiopia's unilateral

decision to begin to fill the dam before an agreement and all necessary dam safety measures were in place."

Africa's largest hydroelectric dam has caused severe tensions between the three nations.

Mnuchin was scheduled to travel to Sudan's capital Khartoum on Wednesday to meet with the country's leaders, according to Sudan's state-run SUNA news agency.

It would be the first visit by a senior U.S. official since Washington last month approved the removal of Sudan from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism. SUNA's report said Mnuchin would discuss with Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, head of the ruling sovereign council, and Prime



In this June 28, 2013 file photo, construction work takes place, at the site of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam near As-sosa, Ethiopia.

Associated Press

Minister Abdalla Hamdok possible U.S. economic aid debt relief. It did not give further details.

Mnuchin said last month he would work with Congress and the transitional government in Khartoum

to advance Sudan's efforts to secure debt relief in 2021. Sudan is on a fragile path to democracy after a popular uprising led the military to overthrow long-time autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019. □



A grey heron stands between dumped plastic bottles and barrels on the bank of the Potpecko Lake on the Lim river, near city of Priboj, Serbia, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

Islands of floating waste clog rivers in Balkans

VISEGRAD, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Huge islands of waste are floating on some rivers in the Balkans, causing an environmental emergency and threatening a regional hydropower plant. Plastic bottles and bags, rusty barrels and other garbage on Tuesday could be seen clogging the Drina river near the eastern Bosnian town of Visegrad. Upstream, the Drina tributaries in Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia are carrying even more waste after the swollen winter waters surged over the the landfills in the

area. The Balkan nations have poor waste management and tons of garbage routinely end up in rivers. A broken barrier this week caused a massive congestion of garbage on the Drina that has threatened the Visegrad dam. Officials say that between 6,000 and 8,000 cubic meters of waste are pulled out of the Drina each year near Visegrad. Although the problem is not new, Serbia, Bosnia and Montenegro have done little to fix it even as they seek to join the European Union. □

Former head of China state asset firm sentenced to death



In this image taken from Jan. 5, 2021, video footage run by China's CCTV via AP Video, Lai Xiaomin, the former head of the state-owned China Huarong Asset Management Co. Ltd., attends court at the Second Intermediate People's Court of Tianjin in China.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The former head of state-owned China Huarong Asset Management Co. Ltd. was sentenced to death Tuesday for bribe taking in one of the harshest punishments for economic crimes in recent years.

Lai Xiaomin, 58, was also found guilty by the Second Intermediate People's Court of Tianjin of lesser charges including corruption and bigamy.

Life sentences and suspended death sentences commuted to life after two years are frequently handed down in corruption cases, but death sentences without the chance of reprieve have become

rare in recent years. Such sentences are automatically appealed to China's highest court.

Lai was placed under investigation by the ruling Communist Party's corruption watchdog in 2018 and expelled from the party later the same year.

In its ruling, the Tianjin court cited the "especially enormous" size of the bribes Lai accepted, saying they exceeded 600 million yuan (\$93 million) in one instance. In total, it said Lai collected or sought to collect 1.79 billion yuan (US\$260 million) over a decade in exchange for abusing his position to make investments, offer construction con-

tracts, help with promotions and provide other favors.

He was also convicted of embezzling more than 25 million yuan (almost \$4 million) in state assets and starting a second family while still married to his first wife.

Although Lai provided useful details about malfeasance by his subordinates, the seriousness of his bribetaking and "degree of harm caused to society" were not enough to win him leniency, the court said in its ruling.

"Lai Xiaomin is lawless and greedy in the extreme," the ruling said. "His crimes are extremely serious and must be punished severely under law."

Huarong is one of four entities created in the 1990s to buy nonperforming loans from banks, helping to revive the state-owned finance industry. Such asset management companies expanded into banking, insurance, real estate finance and other fields.

Lai was accused of squandering public money, illegally organizing banquets, engaging in sexual dealings with multiple women and taking bribes, the anti-corruption agency said in 2018. □

U.S. Air Force deploys airmen, drones to base in Romania



In this Thursday, April 10, 2014 file picture, members of the US air force prepare for a flag raising ceremony at a Romanian air base in Campia Turzii, Romania.

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — The U.S. Air Force has deployed about 90 airmen and an unspecified num-

ber of drone aircraft to a base in central Romania, boosting its military presence in the region where

there are allied concerns that Russia is trying to display its military strength.

The Romanian Defense Ministry said Wednesday that the U.S. deployment in its Campia Turzii Air Base will be for "a few months" to conduct information gathering, surveillance and research missions in support of NATO operations.

NATO-member Romania shares the Black Sea border with Russia, and Moscow has lately been arming its neighbor Serbia with military aircraft, tanks and other armored vehicles.

"The forward and ready positioning of our MQ-9s (Reaper drones) at this key strategic location reassures our allies and partners, while

also sending a message to our adversaries, that we can quickly respond to any emergent threat," Gen. Jeff Harrigan, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa commander, said in a statement. The statement said the Reapers will boost surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities in the Black Sea region, where the U.S. has regularly accused Russia of dangerous intercepts of its military aircraft and other incidents that have caused tensions to flare between the two superpowers. The Pentagon has spent millions of dollars in recent years to upgrade the Cold War communist-era base in central Romania where its air force hosts

two squadrons of modernized version MiG-21 aircraft and two Puma helicopter squadrons.

This deployment has been fully coordinated with the Romanian government, the statement said. The United States and Romania enjoy a close military-to-military relationship as NATO allies and cooperate on numerous regional security issues, the U.S. statement said.

The forward MQ-9 presence enabled by this deployment demonstrates the United States' commitment to the security and stability of Europe and aims to strengthen relationships between NATO allies and other European partners, it added. □

Venezuela's socialists take control of once-defiant congress

By **JORGE RUEDA** and **JOSHUA GOODMAN**

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Nicolás Maduro was set to extend his grip on power Tuesday as the ruling socialist party prepared to assume the leadership of Venezuela's congress, the last institution in the country it didn't already control.

Maduro's allies swept legislative elections last month boycotted by the opposition and denounced as a sham by the U.S., the European Union and several other foreign governments. While the vote was marred by anemically low turnout, it nonetheless seemed to relegate into irrelevancy the U.S.-backed opposition led by 37-year-old lawmaker Juan Guaidó.

Exactly a year ago, Guaidó, in a blue suit and tie, tried to scale a spiked iron fence to get past a group of riot police blocking him from attending the parliament's inaugural session, which according to the constitution must be held every year on Jan. 5.

A far cry from that electric display of defiance, Guaidó was expected to meet via Zoom with a cohort of opposition leaders for their own virtual parliamentary session.

Last month, anti-Maduro lawmakers, several dozen of them from exile, also



Jorge Rodríguez, right, lifts his fist after being sworn-in as president of the National Assembly, in front of a photo of late President Hugo Chavez, at Congress in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.

gathered online to extend their mandate stemming from a landslide victory in 2015 for another 12 months, operating through an adjunct committee normally reserved for legislative recesses.

Supreme Court justices loyal to Maduro immediately struck down the law as invalid. But that hasn't stopped the Trump administration from doubling down in its support of Guaidó.

"The national parliament will not be detained until

there are free elections in Venezuela," Guaidó said on Twitter recently.

While Guaidó's bravery hasn't wavered, the opposition's political fortunes have tanked as Venezuelans own hopes for change have collapsed. Recent opinion polls show support for Guaidó having fallen by more than half since he first rose to challenge Maduro two years ago.

Meanwhile, Maduro has managed to retain a solid grip on power and the mili-

tary, the traditional arbiter of political disputes.

Gaby Arellano, a lawmaker exiled in Colombia, said that many in the opposition underestimated Maduro, thinking he stood no chance in a doomsday economic environment marked by hyperinflation, miles-long lines for gasoline and pulverized wages measured adding up to a few pennies per month.

But he's managed to outmaneuver his foes through a mix of repression and co-

optation exacerbated by the opposition's own missteps, Arellano said. She expects a new round of repression now that Maduro has seized congress. On Tuesday, Guaidó blasted on Twitter photos of what he said were security forces surrounding his apartment building in Caracas. The AP was unable to confirm the reports.

Reflecting that lack of unity, a few lawmakers still inside Venezuela -- including Guaidó's former deputy as National Assembly vice president -- signaled they would no longer lay claim to their seats.

"We're at the start of what looks like a very dark, new phase," said Arellano.

With Maduro easily boxing out the opposition, his biggest threat may come from within his own coalition.

To reward loyal allies and paper over tensions between hardline ideologues and moderates within the Bolivarian revolution, the makeup of the legislature was expanded by 100 seats. He also leaned on high-profile candidates, including First Lady Cilia Flores, in an ultimately futile attempt to boost turnout, which in the end was 30% — less than half of what it was in the 2015 election, which gave control of congress to the opposition. □

Associated Press

Portugal leads drive for EU consensus on migration policy

LISBON, Portugal (AP)

— Portugal started consultations Tuesday with other European Union countries to find common ground for a new policy on migration, which has caused humanitarian crises and deep political divisions in the bloc over how to respond.

Portugal, which holds the EU's rotating presidency for the first half of this year, is working on a concept of "flexible, mandatory solidarity" between countries, according to a statement from the office of Portuguese Home Affairs Minister Eduardo Cabrita.

Defining what that concept entails is Portugal's goal for

a meeting of EU justice and home affairs ministers on Jan. 28, the statement said. But migration from outside the EU requires the bloc's members to stand together, and "solidarity cannot be voluntary," the statement said.

"The main goal must be to avoid having people who are searching for a better life in Europe remain for long periods of time in temporary accommodation ... without any clarification about their future," it said.

Cabrita spoke Tuesday to Greece's minister for migration and asylum. He plans to speak to officials in other southern European coun-

tries which have taken in large numbers of migrants, as well as to authorities in central and eastern European countries where migrants have often been made to feel unwelcome. Finding consensus for a common EU policy on migration has eluded the bloc for years. Portugal also wants to reach a comprehensive migration agreement with countries along the Mediterranean Sea's southern rim, from where many migrants cross to the EU. That should include not only tight border controls, but also rules on legal migration and development aid, the statement said.



Yohannes, from Eritrea, prays with other migrants as they arrive at the coast of Italy on board the Spanish NGO Open Arms vessel after being rescued in the Mediterranean sea, about 8 miles south Italy on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

Associated Press

Legal migration can help some EU countries find an-

swers to low birth rates and aging populations, it said. □

LOCAL



By Benjamin Romero
ORANJESTAD — From December 28th, 2020 up till January 3rd, 2021 Aruba welcomed a total of 12.700 visitors. This last figure helped the increase in numbers for the month of December 2020 which exceeded the expectation of the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.), after experiencing an extremely challenging year. The impact of the Covid-19 affected our economic sector immensely.

CEO of A.T.A., Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes qualified 2020 as a 'unique year'. A.T.A. even has a special slogan naming 2020 as an 'unforgettable year'. The word 'unforgettable' is the perfect word to describe 2020 due to so many reasons. An unforeseen turn of event due to the Covid-19 crisis. But 'unforgettable' had also its positive side in which A.T.A. had to look into new ways to improvise their way of doing business. Initiatives were taken, the organization started collaborations with other organizations such as the medical sector and is taking part in the national Crisis Team, where difficult and unique decisions were taken for the entire community. A.T.A. also played a significant role in guiding and providing information to the tourism

sector. A very tough task in which the reality of things needed to be informed without losing the motivation to continue working for our economic pillar. "We played different roles", Tjin Asjoe-Croes says.

In 2020 A.T.A. formed a special commission together with the private sector and the airport in which they worked and brainstormed on a recovery plan for the tourism sector and they prepared for the reopening of the borders back in June 2020. They also introduced the immigration platform online as well as the Aruba Health and Happiness Code program to ensure our travelers a safe and healthy destination.

A.T.A. also was responsible to maintain and execute all necessary work internationally for our tourism industry. Tjin Asjoe-Croes explains that in the past A.T.A. already adapted to certain situations that occur ad hoc and they have the experience to know what the consumer is asking for.

December 2020

Looking back at the number of visitors we had during the end of the year 2020 to 2021 we can say that the tourism started off on the right foot. Tjin Asjoe-Croes

states that the amount of visitors started to increase since October. September was the worst month in which we had a drastic decrease in visitors due to the high increase in active Covid-19 cases on the island.

For December 2020, ATA was expecting a total of 37.000 visitors, but after receiving the last figures

Between Christmas and New Year Aruba welcomed 12.700 visitors

Aruba Tourism Authority calculated between 40 and 45 thousand tourists in December

they can inform that we received almost 45.000 visitors during this month which exceeds their expectation. Aruba is closing its tourism figures for 2020 with a 68% to 70% decrease compared to 2019. Such decrease is also what other key destinations in the region are experiencing. Another good sign according to A.T.A.'s CEO is that the result of 2020 is in line with what the World Tourism Organization (WTO) predicted. The organization prognoses a 70% decrease in 2020 compared to 2019. "We are in line with the tendency of the expected grade of recovery", says since Tjin Asjoe-Croes.

Concerns

For the last couple of days we have been seeing a rise again in active cases

of Covid-19 on the island in which the Crisis Team already has taken measurements. A.T.A. considers this very important and much needed to protect our health and also to prevent this situation to impact the current high season. January 2021 is looking to be strong, but the increase in active cases is a point of concern which can highly impact our tourism. Things also got complicated internationally during the last month of 2020, where there was a high increase of Covid-19 cases at our markets of the Netherlands and the US.

Tjin Asjoe-Croes interpreted the touristic development as still positive since many people are looking to travel and choose Aruba as their vacation destination. □



MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

WILDER Wednesday

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

\$1,000 in Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to 10:30pm

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play. Win \$20 to \$100 in Free Slot Play. Play up to five times each Wednesday.

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins

Hungry Piranha | Aruba Aloe

Shalom Body & Soul Spa

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 11pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47
583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com



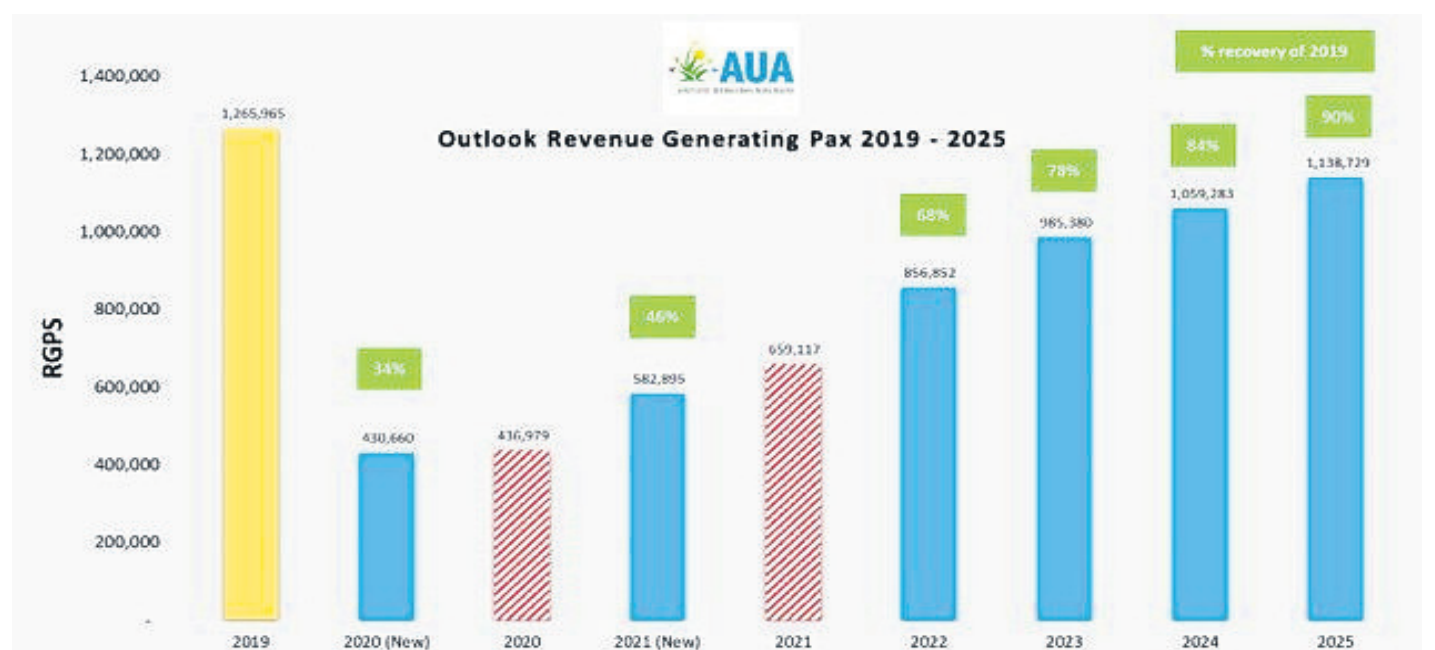
Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.

Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA): Updated four-year outlook for traffic recovery at AUA Airport

ORANJESTAD — “As indicated back in October 2020 we would prepare a multiyear forecast every quarter. In this first quarter of 2021 we foresee a somewhat slower recovery than what we estimated back in October for the years ahead.

We continuously engage daily with our partners in the aviation and tourism industry to adapt and change our outlook(s) if necessary. This forecast is based on the insights and information we have today. The multiyear outlook remains fluid and we will continue to do our utmost to help Aruba in its much-needed recovery,” said Joost Meijjs, CEO of Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA).

At the end of 2020 AUA Airport is now expected to handle a total of approximately 430,000 Revenue Generating Passengers (RGP) (the actual amount will become known the coming week). This would account for a recovery of 34% of RGPs that were handled at AUA Airport in 2019. Based on the network with



AUA Airport's airline partners and based on the insights of the aviation industry associations (IATA, ACI, ICAO, etc.) AUA Airport has determined its updated outlook for the years ahead for the number of passengers that will depart from AUA Airport (Revenue Generating Passengers).

As can be seen AUA Airport estimates at this time that it will recover 34% in 2020, 46% in 2021, 68% in 2022, 78% in 2023, 84% in 2024 and 90% in 2025. This means that AUA Airport has adjusted its forecast for the year 2020 from a 37% recovery to a 34% recovery. For the year 2021 this has been adjusted from a former 52% recovery to now a 46%

recovery. The remaining years AUA Airport is yet confident that AUA Airport will reach the indicated recovery percentages versus the year 2019.

The latter will fluctuate as the years come closer and AUA Airport has much better insights into the recovery of its airlift for those years. □

Breathing a sigh

By: Carlos M Viana, Board Certified Clinical Nutritionist (CCN), Oriental Medicine (OMD)

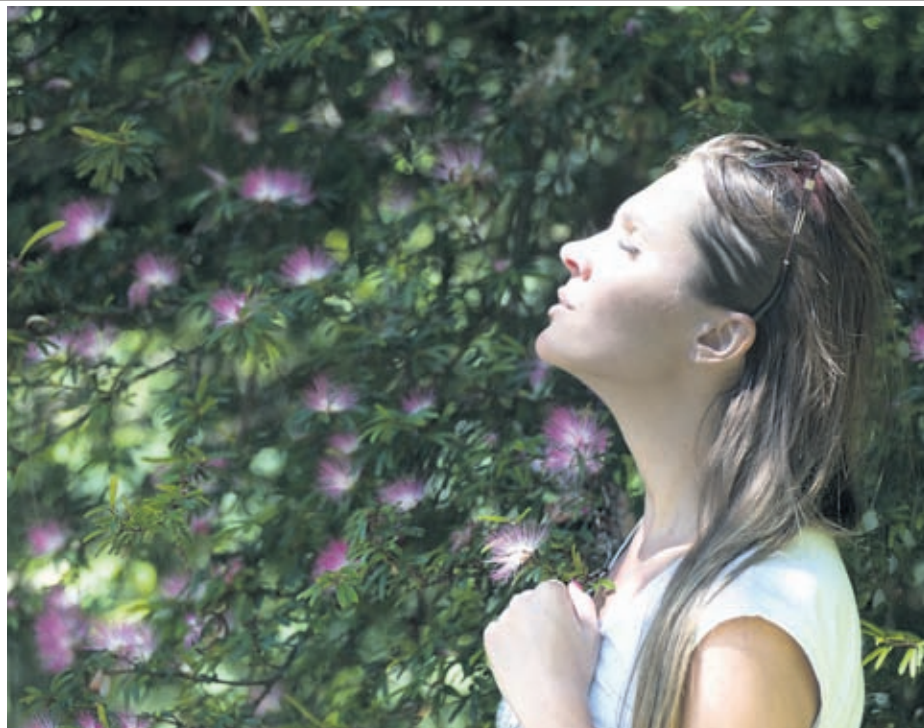
ST. CRUZ — This year, we breathe a sigh as a new year begins. 2020 had its challenges, but a new time is here. Breathing is essential to life. Breathing air into your lungs provides the body with necessary oxygen to support muscle movement, food digestion, brain function and more. Exhaling rids the body of the waste gas, carbon dioxide.

For some, this is easier said than done. The International Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease published an article that explains how mucus secretions commonly found in people with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) negatively impacts lung function. People with COPD, asthma or other breathing problems generally have a lower or compromised immune system and need to be especially extra diligent following guidelines to stay safe and healthy especially in today's world.

Exercise helps strengthen lungs. Being physically active makes the lungs work harder to bring additional oxygen demanded by the body. This reinforces muscles, heart and lungs. If you cannot breathe deeply, it's difficult to do aerobics. Start with easy yoga deep breathing. SCUBA divers and singers know and practice deep controlled breathing. Be sure to work on your posture to lift ribcage, stay hydrated to loosen mucus. Deep belly laughing is also a great lung exercise!

Besides sanitation and protection or avoiding others who may be sick, anyone who is ill or 'high risk' of having difficulty breathing should eat as fresh, natural and healthy as possible. Avoid dairy products. Cow's milk is a top food for producing mucus in the lungs, sinus and colon. Other mucus producing and inflammatory foods include: soy products, wheat (bread, pasta, cereals and more), corn, all sugar – especially processed, other white starchy foods like white potato, white rice, caffeine, red meat and alcohol.

Some dietary supplements like vitamin C have shown to help detox the lungs. Studies suggest people with COPD and other conditions may have low levels of Vitamin D3. Vitamin D3 has shown to improve the body's sensitivity to insulin



which controls blood sugar, reducing risk of insulin resistance. Vitamin D3 may lessen flare ups in chronic lung patients and help the lungs function better.

My favorite lung supplement, NAC or N-acetylcysteine is can be safely taken to dissolve thick mucus with problems such as chronic bronchitis, asthma, emphysema, colds

and flu. NAC liquifies thick mucus from the chest and lungs, allowing you to breathe easier.

NAC is an antidote for Paracetamol, acetaminophen toxicity. Taking too much Paracetamol (pain killer) can hurt the liver. Symptoms can include, nausea, vomiting, pale skin, sweating and fatigue. NAC will detoxify the body so you can



feel better quickly.

Dietary supplements do not have the negative side effects of many pharmaceutical drugs when broken down in the liver. Instead of producing toxins, NAC breaks down into in the liver. Glutathione, called "The Mother of All Antioxidants" prevents and stops cell damage. It protects our brain and helps prevent cancer. Take NAC with food for lung and liver health.

Get the Point! All yogis and health guru's know Breath is Life! A healthy diet including eliminating dairy products and adding supplements like vitamin C, D3 and NAC can help clear tight lungs. Eliminating or reducing chemical, bacterial and viral pollutants whenever possible. Learn about deep breathing exercises, good not only for lungs, but also relaxation. Contact us for personal questions and do not forget the first things birds do to greet the new day and last thing at night is to breath and sing. A big belly laugh might also be just what the doctor ordered.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270, Web Site: www.vianaheal.com. □

Millennial Money: How to nail a no-spend month

By **LAUREN SCHWAHN** of NerdWallet

Holiday spending always gets the best of me. The gifts, the food, the Christmas tree and decorations — sandwiched between two monthly rent payments — siphon money from my bank account. Every year I feel the sticker shock, briefly tuck my tail between my legs, then carry on like it never happened.

But this year I'm trying something different. I'm committing to a no-spend January. That means I'm freezing spending on unnecessary purchases this month to build my savings back up. Goodbye, mindless Target-app browsing. See you later, desserts.

I'm not the only one to emerge from the holiday season in less-than-ideal financial shape. More than half of 2019 holiday shoppers (55%) took on credit card debt, according to NerdWallet's 2020 Holiday Shopping Report.

If you're looking to shed holiday debt, boost your savings or simply manage your money better, a spending freeze can get you on track. Here's how to embark on (and stick to) a no-spend month.

CUSTOMIZE IT

A "no-spend month" sounds strict, but there are no hard-and-fast rules. Obviously, it's about reducing spending. But resolving to spend no money whatsoever is unrealistic. There's



In this Nov. 30, 2020 file photo, a shopper walks by a holiday window display in New York.

Associated Press

no need to take it to an extreme, especially during a pandemic when many of us have already scaled back our spending.

Everyone has expenses they can't go without, like groceries and electricity. You get to decide which categories are untouchable and which ones to cut.

Start by defining your discretionary expenses, known as "wants." For many of us, those include restaurant dinners, alcohol or frivolous online shopping. Leo Marte, a certified financial planner based in Huntersville, North Carolina, suggests using a budgeting app to easily identify your nonessential spending categories. Then, pick which ones to pause.

Next, choose a time frame. A no-spend challenge can last a full calendar month, 30 days, four weeks or whatever period you prefer. Some people schedule a "Frugal February" because it's the shortest month. If that still seems too long, start with a week and see how it goes.

KNOW YOUR MOTIVATION

Before diving into a no-spend month, really think about what you're trying to achieve, says Kristin Larsen, who runs the blog Believe in a Budget. Are you planning to pay down holiday debt or student loans? Do you want to start an emergency fund or save for a trip?

"If you're just doing a no-spend month because it's fashionable or because you thought it was a nice

idea and somebody shared it with you on social media, you're not going to stick with it," Marte says.

Attaching a specific goal can create a stronger emotional connection and inspire you to carry on.

FIND A SUPPORT SYSTEM

A no-spend challenge can feel daunting if you go it alone. Telling family and friends about it — or better yet, encouraging them to join — gives you a "built-in accountability system," Marte says. Your squad can provide crucial tips, reassurance or even constructive criticism when you need it. Making your journey public on social media networks or other online forums takes accountability one step further. It shines a spotlight on successes and failures,

which is exactly what some people need to stay the course.

"Maybe every time you make a meal at home and don't go out to a restaurant, you post it on Instagram. And your tribe gets excited and gives you those kudos and that recognition you need to stick it out," Marte says.

GET CREATIVE

When Larsen goes through a no-spend period, she looks for no-cost resources to fill the void. She downloads free audiobooks through her library to get her entertainment fix. Instead of grabbing food to go, she uses a website that suggests recipes based on ingredients she already has in her pantry. (Try SuperCook or MyFridgeFood.)

Many expenses have free alternatives. See what clever workarounds you can come up with.

BUILD IN A BUFFER FOR CHEAT DAYS

Mistakes and surprises happen. Planning for them will help you avoid feeling shame or throwing in the towel.

"You could decide, 'I'm not going to eat out at any restaurants this month, but I'm going to put in the budget for a takeout night in case we have a bad day at work and don't want to cook,'" Marte says.

It's also OK to set aside a little reward money in your budget for when things go well. □

NYSE withdraws plans to delist 3 Chinese phone carriers

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Stock Exchange says it is withdrawing plans to remove shares of three Chinese state-owned phone carriers under an order by President Donald Trump.

The exchange cited "further consultation" with U.S. regulators but gave no other details of its decision in a notice issued late Monday. The NYSE earlier announced plans to remove China Telecom Corp. Ltd., China Mobile Ltd. and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd. after Trump's order in November

barring Americans from investing in securities issued by companies deemed to be linked to the Chinese military. Hong Kong-traded shares in the three companies surged Tuesday. China Telecom rose 5.7%, China Mobile jumped 5.5% and China Unicom surged 6.7%. Shares in all three have fallen recently.

The Chinese government has accused Washington of misusing national security as an excuse to hamper competition and has warned that Trump's order

would hurt U.S. and other investors worldwide.

Political analysts expect little change in policy under President-elect Joe Biden due to widespread frustration with China's trade and human rights records and accusations of spying and technology theft. U.S. officials have complained that China's ruling Communist Party takes advantage of access to American technology and investment to expand its military, already one of the world's biggest and most heavily armed. □



In this Nov. 16, 2020 file photo, a man wearing a mask passes the New York Stock Exchange, in New York.

Associated Press

Study: Warming already baked in will blow past climate goals

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

The amount of baked-in global warming, from carbon pollution already in the air, is enough to blow past international agreed upon goals to limit climate change, a new study finds. But it's not game over because, while that amount of warming may be inevitable, it can be delayed for centuries if the world quickly stops emitting extra greenhouse gases from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, the study's authors say.

For decades, scientists have talked about so-called "committed warming" or the increase in future temperature based on past carbon dioxide emissions that stay in the atmosphere for well over a century. It's like the distance a speeding car travels after the brakes are applied.

But Monday's study in the journal *Nature Climate Change* calculates that a bit differently and now figures the carbon pollution already put in the air will push global temperatures to about 2.3 degrees Celsius (4.1 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times.

Previous estimates, including those accepted by in-



The Jan. 10, 2009 file photo shows a flock of geese flying past a smokestack at the Jeffery Energy Center coal power plant near Emmitt, Kan.

Associated Press

ternational science panels, were about a degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) less than that amount of committed warming. International climate agreements set goals of limiting warming to 2 degrees

Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, with the more ambitious goal of limiting it to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) added in Paris in 2015. The world has already warmed about 1.1

degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit).

"You've got some ... global warming inertia that's going to cause the climate system to keep warming, and that's essentially what we're calculating," said study co-author Andrew Dessler, a climate scientist at Texas A&M University. "Think about the climate system like the Titanic. It's hard to turn the ship when you see the icebergs."

Dessler and colleagues at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab and Nanjing University in China calculated committed warming to take into account that the world has warmed at different rates in different places and that places that haven't warmed as fast are destined to catch up. Places such as the Southern Ocean, surrounding Antarctica are a bit cooler, and that difference creates low-lying clouds that reflect more sun away from earth, keeping these places cooler.

But this situation can't keep going indefinitely because physics dictates that cooler locations will warm up more and when they do, the clouds will dwindle and more heating will occur, Dessler said.

Previous studies were based

on the cooler spots staying that way, but Dessler and colleagues say that's not likely.

Outside experts said the work is based on compelling reasoning, but want more research to show that it's true. Breakthrough Institute climate scientist Zeke Hausfather said the new work fits better with climate models than observational data.

Just because the world is bound to get more warming than international goals, that doesn't mean all is lost in the fight against global warming, said Dessler, who cautioned against what he called "climate doomers."

If the world gets to net zero carbon emissions soon, 2 degrees of global warming could be delayed enough so that it won't happen for centuries, giving society time to adapt or even come up with technological fixes, he said.

"If we don't, we're going to blow through (climate goals) in a few decades," Dessler said. "It's really the rate of warming that makes climate change so terrible. If we got a few degrees over 100,000 years, that would not be that big a deal. We can deal with that. But a few degrees over 100 years is really bad." □

If I've already had the coronavirus, can I get it again?

Classifieds

For All Time Share Owners
On the Island of Aruba
Halley Time Travel Aruba
Free Listings Fees
Free Appraisal Report
Sell your week for you
Transfer all legal documents
36 Years in business
Call : (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com
www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

Looking to purchase
For one of our clients
1 Bedroom or 2 Bedroom near
eagle or palm beach Time
Share Resort
From week 2 to 10
More info: (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



Associated Press Illustration/Peter Hamlin

By The Associated Press

If I've already had the coronavirus, can I get it again? It's possible, but such cases seem to be rare.

Evidence is growing that people whose bodies mounted a strong defense to the virus are unlikely to test positive again for at least several months and maybe longer.

It's not unusual to develop some immunity to a virus after an infection, since our bodies are generally better at recognizing and fighting off bugs they've encountered before.

And that seems to be the case with the coronavirus as well, though scientists are still trying to figure out how long any protection might last.

Some reinfections have been confirmed, but two new studies suggest that's very unusual.

In one, only two out of 1,265 health workers in the United Kingdom who were previously infected ended up testing positive again for the coronavirus in the following six months. In another study of people in the U.S., only 0.3% of people who had been infected tested positive for the virus over the next several months – around the same rate of positivity as the U.K. study.

The findings bode well for the COVID-19 vaccines that are being rolled out, which trigger the kind of immune responses that the studies found protective. □

Time Share Resales + Realty

Own or Rent a piece of the Rock
For up to 70 % Off stay @5 Star Resort

* All inventory available

Visit our website :

www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

For more info call:(297) 630-1307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

also visit(new):

www.halleyadventures.com

Classifieds

Divi Links Golf
2 BR WK # 50,51,52,01
Room # 2258/2259
28 weeks remain each
Price : \$60 K all 4 weeks
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix
1 BR WK #52 room # 401
Right on the beach Ocean View
26 weeks remain
Price : \$13 K
more info call:(297) 630-1307

Divi Links Golf
2 BR WK # 51 Room #
2205/2206
25 weeks remain \$ 15 K
Price :\$15K
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf
2BR WK # 1,2,3
Room #2308/2309
25 weeks remain on each
Price : \$ 45K all 3 weeks
more info call :(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK #3,4,5
Room # 4226
25 weeks remain on each
Price : \$ 8K each
more info call :(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Casa Del Mar
Right on the beach
2 BR WK # 1 Room #1408
2 BR WK # 2 Room # 1113
Price : \$ 20 K each
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf
2 BR WK # 3
Room # 4215/4216
25 weeks remain
Price : \$ 15 K
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK # 4
Room # 2204
24 weeks remain
Price : \$8 K
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Links Golf
Studio WK #2 room #4205
1 BR WK # 3 room # 4102
22 weeks remain on each
Price : STU \$7K, 1 BR \$8 K
more info call:(297)630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Divi Village Resort
Studio Week # 1
Room # 3101
32 weeks remain
Price : \$7 K
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Paradise Beach Villas
1 BR WK # 3 Room # 204
Garden View
Price : \$ 7 K
more info call; (297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Paradise Beach Villas
Eagle Beach
1 BR Week 1 and 2
Room # 222 Pool/ocean view
Price :\$ 10 K each
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Eagle Resort
1 BR WK # 2 Room # 2579
1 BR WK # 3,4 Room # 3556
Price : \$ 8 K each
more info call:(297) 630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club
Platinum Plus
2 BR WK# 51 and 52 Ocean
Front\$150K
2 BR WK# 51 and 52 Ocean
View\$ 50K each
2 BR WK# 51Ocean Views
\$50K
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf club
Platinum
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2BR Ocean si de \$18,5K
2BR Ocean Front \$25K
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Ocean Club
Platinum
1BR Ocean View \$10K
1BR Ocean Front \$17,5K
2BR Ocean View \$18K
2BR Ocean Front \$28,5K
More info :(297) 6301307
Johnnypaesch@gmail.com

FOR RENT/SALE
PARADISE BEACH VILLAS
WK 1 Jan 2-9 1 BR OCEAN-
FRONT
WK 4 Jan 23-30 Pool OCEAN
VIEW
WK 8 & 9 Feb 20-Mar 06 2BR
OCEANFRONT
WK 31 & 32 Jul 31-Aug 4 2BR
Pool OCEAN VIEW
Call +941-343-1088 USA

For Sale: Casa del Mar
Presidential unit at Casa Del
Mar for week 1, room 1317. 2
bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen,
dining room, pool and fitness
center. Asking \$16,000. Call
USA, 845-239-2918 or email
garyhudak684@comcast.net

For Sale: Casa Del Mar
Presidential unit at Casa Del
Mar for week 2, room 1511. 2
bedroom, 2 bath, full kitchen,
dining room, pool and fitness
center. Asking \$16,000. Call
USA, 845-239-2918 or email
garyhudak684@comcast.net.

For Sale: Barcelo
All Inclusive.
Prime week, studio deluxe unit.
Sleeps 2. Cost of food and
liquor package extra. Cost of
ownership \$12,000. Call USA
845-239-2918 or email garyhu-
dak684@comcast.net.

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B
week 1/1408 (15k);
week 2/1113 (16k);
week 5/1315 (18k);
week 5&6/1521 (20k/Wk.);
week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);
week 8/1113; 8/1409
(17k/wk.);
week 9/1218 (15k);
week 10/1207 (15k);
weeks 11-15 also available!
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. (860)992-3890



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
Eagle Tel. 587 9011
San Nicolas:
San NicolasTel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook
facebook.com/arubatoday/



ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
Richard Brooks

Sales
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists
Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday

Being Judy Garland won Zellweger an Oscar. Is a Grammy next?

NEW YORK (AP) — Renée Zellweger is known for acting but you could easily write a thesis about her love for music.

The entertainer won her second Academy Award for portraying Judy Garland in last year's "Judy," for which Zellweger did her own singing in front of live audiences. She was praised for her performance in 2002's "Chicago." And she's an avid concertgoer and live-music appreciator who jumped up and down in her gown when Eminem surprised the audience at last year's Oscars and despite being an A-list star, sneaks out to concerts just to get her music fix.

She's also a proud card-carrying member of the Beyhive.

"She raises the bar when it comes to work ethic. I admire with her that if she's going to do it, she's knocking it into the stratosphere or she's not going to do it," said Zellweger, who gushed over Beyoncé's groundbreaking performance at the 2005 Oscars. "She was the north star on that one ... She's the one carrying that gift we're all so blessed to experience in one way or another."

So it should be no surprise — unless you're Zellweger — that she's earned her first Grammy nomination this year. The "Judy"



Renée Zellweger, winner of the award for best performance by an actress in a leading role for "Judy", poses in the press room at the Oscars on Feb. 9, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

soundtrack, which features Zellweger covering songs like "Over the Rainbow" and "The Trolley Song," is nominated for best traditional pop vocal album — an award Tony Bennett has won a dozen times.

"I don't guess that's something I thought about to be honest," Zellweger said in a phone interview about hearing the words "Grammy-nominated" before her name. "That's not something I walked around imagining. It sure was a thrilling surprise."

She is competing in a category with musicians whose

concerts she's attended and songs she's played for years. Nominees include Burt Bacharach, James Taylor, Harry Connick Jr. and Rufus Wainwright, who performs "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" with Zellweger on the "Judy" album.

"It was scary to ask Rufus, 'Hey, what are you doing? Want to come sing a duet with me?'" she recalled. "I know people say that all the time, but it's the truth: I really have been singing with Rufus for 20 years-plus in my car."

Zellweger remembers see-

ing Connick Jr. live, describing the crooner as "an authentic person and performer."

"What you see is what you get," Zellweger said. "Stomping his foot up there onstage at the Hollywood Bowl and you feel like you're in the living room with him or something."

"Speaking of the living room," she continued, "a friend of mine had won this lottery thing or bid on something. It was a private concert with Burt ... and Carole Bayer Sager and they played in the living room. And he played 'Alfie'

in the living room. Oh, believe me. I was downloading every moment in my memory — just to savor it and to smile on it."

Getting Zellweger to go on and on about music is light work. The Texan has been going for concerts for years and she even had tickets for a show that was recently canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. "I sneak off by myself all the time. I love to go up to the Santa Barbara Bowl whenever I get a chance. I'll fly to Texas and I'll sneak around Austin to see people play. I'll go up to Dallas," she said. "One of the things I think I've missed the most is getting to congregate and listen to music in that way. There's nothing quite like it." Convincing Zellweger she's a real singer is a tougher job. When she's asked when she knew she could sing, she replied: "I still don't know."

"I still don't think of myself as a singer. I think of myself as someone who's trying to sing. Or who works to. I still don't know what I sound like when I'm just being myself," she explained. "So, yeah, I don't know."

She trained heavily to get her voice strong enough to perform in "Judy," which chronicles the last years of Garland's life shortly before her death in 1969 at age 47. □

Trebek urges support for COVID-19 victims in 1 of last shows



This image released by Jeopardy! shows Alex Trebek, host of the game show "Jeopardy!"

Associated Press

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a message taped for what turned out to be his final week as "Jeopardy!" host, Alex Trebek urged the game show's viewers to honor the season of giving by helping victims of the coronavirus epidemic.

Trebek's plea aired in the opening moments of the show that aired on Monday.

"We're trying to build a gentler, kinder society and if we all pitch in just a little bit, we're going to get there," he said.

Trebek died November 8 at age 80 of pancreatic

cancer but had pre-taped several weeks of shows that have continued to air. Monday's show began the final week of programs that he left behind.

His last week of shows were originally scheduled to air on Christmas week; two categories of clues on Monday were "December 21" and "Christmas on Broadway." But to give Trebek's final week wider exposure, "Jeopardy!" put them off until this week.

The show's executive producer, Mike Richards, told NBC's "Today" show on Monday that Trebek was "an absolute warrior" in his last taping sessions.

"He was in enormous pain," Richards said. "He was, you know, 10 days away from passing away. And you will not sense that in any of these episodes."

A successor hasn't been named. Longtime "Jeopardy!" champion Ken Jennings will be the first of a planned series of guest hosts on episodes that begin appearing next week. Asked whether Trebek had given any suggestions about a successor, Richards told NBC that "he mentioned a couple of names but he wanted to stay out of that ... No one is going to replace him, and he knew that." □

TENNIS '21: COVID questions key; Djokovic, Nadal eye records

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

When the 2020 men's tennis season ended at the ATP Finals, Rafael Nadal captured a common sentiment that still holds true as the 2021 tennis season is set to begin this week.

"The world is suffering a lot, so we are very lucky that we can play tennis," Nadal said in London in November. "That's the real feeling that I have."

After an off-and-on, pandemic-altered year for the sport, coronavirus questions and an ever-evolving calendar still will be key parts of the conversation as things get going Wednesday at the Abu Dhabi WTA Women's Tennis Open, where Sofia Kenin leads the field, and Thursday at the ATP's Delray Beach Open, where Reilly Opelka is the defending champion.

Opelka won that hard-court title last February, but the tournament was moved to early January as part of a shuffling on both professional tours.

"It's really going to be for me to find my tennis. I haven't even played in three months," said Opelka, a 23-year-old American who is based in Florida and ranked 39th. "So this is really just to get me back into the competitive mindset and playing against other guys and back in tournament mode."

The changes include the start of the year's first major championship, the Australian Open, delayed three



In this Aug. 31, 2020, file photo, Reilly Opelka, of the United States, returns to David Goffin, of Belgium, during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York.

Associated Press

weeks to Feb. 8, and the joint event played at Indian Wells, California — canceled last year because of the COVID-19 outbreak — giving up its usual March dates without a new spot for it on the schedule as of now.

There are some significant milestones in the offing for stars such as Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams in 2021.

Nadal can break a tie with Roger Federer for the most Grand Slam singles titles for a man after matching him with No. 20 at the French Open in October; by March, Djokovic can surpass Federer's record for most weeks at No. 1 in the

ATP rankings; Williams is one Slam singles trophy away from No. 24, which would equal Margaret Court for the most in the sport's history.

Other tennis storylines in 2021:

FEDERER'S RETURN

More than 12 months will have passed between matches for the 39-year-old Federer by the time he returns from two operations on his right knee. Federer's agent told The Associated Press he is aiming for late February after missing the Australian Open for the first time since his main-draw debut in 2000.

THE SLAMS

There were only three Slams

in 2020, because the All England Club canceled Wimbledon for the first time since World War II. As of now, Wimbledon is scheduled for its usual place on the calendar, beginning June 28. The French Open's start got shifted from May to September last year and the number of fans was severely restricted; as of now, it is slotted for May 23. For the Australian Open, there are lingering questions about flights, hotels and quarantine plans for players and their personnel. "I'm not that excited, to be honest.

Like, I don't want to stay in my room for 19 hours," Opelka said. "You know, I

get it; we have to do it. But I'm not one bit excited."

TOKYO OLYMPICS

The 2020 Olympics, as they'll still be called, are scheduled to start in July, and two tennis players representing Japan could be breakout stars: AP Female Athlete of the Year Naomi Osaka and Kei Nishikori. "The Olympics are a special time when the world comes together to celebrate sports. I am looking forward most to being with the athletes that had waited and trained for over 10 years, for celebrating a very hard year (2020), and having that happen in Japan makes it that much more special," Osaka wrote in an email interview. "It's a special and beautiful country filled with culture, history and beauty. I cannot be more excited."

CROWDED COMPETITION

Should be fascinating to watch the young women who recently won Grand Slam titles compete for more. That includes No. 1 Ash Barty, who is 24; No. 3 Osaka, 23; No. 4 Kenin, 21; No. 7 Bianca Andreescu, 20; No. 17 Iga Swiatek, 19.

WHO'S GOT NEXT?

There appear to be more legitimate candidates for first-time major champions in men's tennis than there have been in years. With Dominic Thiem joining the club last year at the no-spectator U.S. Open, who will join him? Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander Zverev all appear capable. □

Al-Attiyah wins Dakar Rally stage; Howes leads motorbikes

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Nasser Al-Attiyah won his third stage of the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia and cut his deficit to overall leader Stephane Peterhansel to five minutes on Tuesday.

Al-Attiyah won the prologue and the second stage, and had to open the 403-kilometer (250-mile) loop around Wadi Ad-Dawasir, a blend of rocky canyons and dunes.

The Qatari dominated, beating Henk Lategan of South Africa by 2 1/2 minutes. Peterhansel overcame an early puncture and was third, four minutes back.

Some contenders didn't fare so well. Defending champion Carlos Sainz, racing second early on, lost his way along with Saudi flagbearer Yazeed Al Rajhi. Sainz was back on track 31 minutes later and Al Rajhi after 45 minutes.

Bernhard Ten Brinke of the Netherlands, in the top five with about 40 kilometers to go, rolled his car and was receiving a competitor's help to resume.

Peterhansel held on to the overall lead, five minutes over Al-Attiyah. Mathieu Serradori of France rose to third, 26 minutes back. Sainz was fourth, 33 minutes back, and

Sebastien Loeb was sixth, 46 minutes down.

Skyler Howes of the United States became the motorbike overall leader after stage two winner Joan Barreda and defending champion Ricky Brabec went off course 40 kilometers in.

Howes came into the picture after the stage's midpoint and finished fourth. Last year, in his second Dakar, he was ninth overall, taking a laidback approach just three months after breaking his neck. He said he has the same mindset this year.

"Today the dunes flowed really

well and I felt comfortable there," Howes said. "Then we got out into the open desert on the really fast sandy tracks and I felt right at home. I told myself if I was feeling good, then I'd let it ride."

Two-time winner Toby Price of Australia outdueled Kevin Benavides of Argentina to win the stage. Matthias Walkner, who lost two hours on Monday because of a mechanical problem, was third. Brabec was 22 minutes off the pace, and Barreda 25 minutes. Overall, Howes led Benavides by 2 1/2 minutes, and Xavier de Soultrait was third. □

In the NBA this season, teams will see same refs more often

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

There are nine people who have been on the court to start four different games at Staples Center so far this season.

Only eight of them are players.

The other is referee Scott Foster.

There might be no better way to explain how and why the NBA has changed the travel rules for officials this year than Foster's work schedule to this point. He was scheduled to work a game in Houston on Dec. 23, only to see the matchup called off when the Rockets didn't have enough people available to play in accordance with the league's health and safety protocols regarding the coronavirus.

From there, Foster flew to Los Angeles. He worked four games in six days, and never left L.A. in that span.

That simply would have never happened in past years, when the policy typically was that officials would go at least 13 days between working games in the same city and six days between seeing the same team after reffing one of its games. Those rules will almost certainly come back when the world returns to normal, but for now, in the interest of safety — and



Referee Natalie Sago officiates behind Boston Celtics' Semi Ojeleye (37) during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Memphis Grizzlies, Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020, in Boston.
Associated Press

common sense — teams are seeing referees more often than usual.

"It changes things a little bit," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "But obviously, for safety and our health and the health of the officials, it makes all the sense in the world."

Referees are tested for COVID-19 daily, just like players

and coaches, and have to comply with new league rules about avoiding bars, lounges, clubs, public gyms and many other indoor gathering spots. Reducing their air travel is another part of the league's plan to exist outside a bubble in a coronavirus-dominated world. The thinking is simple; less time in the air, less time

around other people, less risk.

The Bucks saw David Guthrie and Marat Kogut on the crew that officiated their game at Miami on Dec. 29 and when Milwaukee returned to Miami a night later for the second half of the two-game set, Guthrie and Kogut were back as well. It's not an aberration this season; Ben Taylor was crew chief in Milwaukee on Friday and had the same role when the Bucks played their next game there Monday.

There are plenty of other examples.

Zach Zarba lives in New York and didn't have to get on a plane until his fourth game of the season, after opening in Brooklyn and then being crew chief for Knicks' home games on consecutive nights last week with Scott Wall working alongside him in both of those games.

Marc Davis, Derrick Collins and Nate Green were the crew for the Dallas-Los Angeles Clippers game on Dec. 27, then stayed in L.A. to work Portland's game there against the Lakers the next night. Foster had the Lakers on Dec. 25 and

Dec. 27, then the Clippers on Dec. 29 and Dec. 30.

"We are working to keep our officials safe and reduce the amount of travel and potential exposure," said Monty McCutchen, the NBA senior vice president who oversees referee development and training. It can lead to some awkward moments.

Consider the case of Utah's Jordan Clarkson. He gave referee Karl Lane a bit of a shove — it didn't appear to be premeditated or violent — in a game against the Clippers on Thursday, earning a technical foul. The next night, the Jazz were back on their home floor, with Lane part of the officiating crew again and after Clarkson got fined \$25,000 for the shove.

If there were any hard feelings from the night before, none showed.

Clarkson got called for only one foul in the Friday game, a charge. Lane was the official who made that call, which in fairness was a pretty easy one. Nobody complained.

"Great way to start to 2021! a team win and \$25k lighter!" Clarkson wrote on Instagram.

The NBA doesn't announce which referees are doing which games until 9 a.m. Eastern on game day, which means not many know beforehand which officials are coming to town. But now that it's clear that some refs are going to have extended stays in cities, at least for this season, Budenholzer says it could be time for coaches to perhaps be a bit nicer to those with the whistles.

Just in case.

"Maybe as coaches, we can be more humane," Budenholzer said. "If you know you're going to see that guy the next night, I don't know, you better be careful and know that he's probably sleeping on whatever it is you've said. So maybe some self-restraint, which is probably never a bad thing for coaches, is more in order considering we'll see these guys on multiple nights and more often." □

Spurs' Derrick White out indefinitely after breaking toe



San Antonio Spurs' Derrick White (4) shoots as Los Angeles Lakers' Montrezl Harrell (15) and Talen Horton-Tucker defend during the first half of an NBA basketball game Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio Spurs point guard Derrick White is out indefinitely after breaking his left second toe.

White had offseason surgery on the same toe, but the Spurs said Monday the fracture is a new injury.

White missed training camp, the preseason and the first four games of the regular season after undergoing surgery on the toe last August.

He made his season debut Friday against the Los Angeles Lakers. The four-year veteran suffered the non-displaced fracture after falling in the second quarter of that game.

White, who was on a minutes restriction, had nine points in 23 minutes in the Lakers' 109-103 victory.

White missed San Antonio's loss to Utah on Sunday, the team's fourth straight defeat after opening the season with two wins.

The 29th pick in the 2017 draft out of Colorado, White has been one of the Spurs' primary scorers and distributors the past two seasons. He averaged a career-high 11.3 points last season along with 3.5 assists. In seven games after the restart, White averaged 18.9 points, 5.0 assists and 4.3 rebounds in 29.8 minutes. □